

DD/A Registry
File *Bldg + Grc*

16 June 1976

NOTE FOR: Mr. John Kerry King, Chairman, FAC

STATINTL

Mr. [REDACTED] of the DDA Information and Privacy Staff and I were discussing the "death of the trees" in the courtyards. Although I do not know all of the background or action being taken, I mentioned to him that the soil is being tested, etc., in an effort to determine the reason for the loss of the trees and plants. Jim has a most interesting theory which I am passing on to you with the possibility that it has not already been considered or checked out. Jim is interested in and knowledgeable of trees. He had immediately observed that the trees and some of the plants had died, practically overnight and not over a period of time. It is his belief that the cause was some type of defoliant or chemical - as a possible result of leakage from air conditioning equipment or accidental spillage of some kind of chemical from the upper floors or roof of the building (if so, this would have involved a great amount in order to cover the area which was affected) or, even very likely, spray of some type of chemical or solution from a low-flying aircraft. This last suggestion may not be as unbelievable as you first think. Destruction of the foliage follows a northwest to southwest pattern across the courtyard which is the same as flight pattern to National Airport. It could mean that a pilot lightening his fuel load enroute to National Airport dropped J-2 fuel. Jim bases his theory of cause by defoliant or chemical on the pattern of death of the trees - from the top down, being aware of the deep root formation and age of the willow oaks. If the soil were indeed bad, additional trees and plantings of similar species in the courtyards would surely have also been affected, and apparently they were not. The explanation is actually too complicated and lengthy to include here but, if you are interested, you might wish to phone Jim on extension 6027. He is willing to discuss it with you. (It is also probable that an Agency component would have the resources/skill to make a chemical test.) Maybe this is a solution to the problem/mystery which could result in a savings of time, money, and frustration.

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cc: Mrs. [REDACTED] OL/LSD
Mr. [REDACTED] A/IPS

[REDACTED]
0-DD/A

STATINTL

26 July 1976

Approved For Release 2001/07/12 : CIA-RDP79-00498A000100080010-1

Memorandum for: Mike Matanick [redacted] Registry

Associate DDA
7D26, Headquarters

76-3764

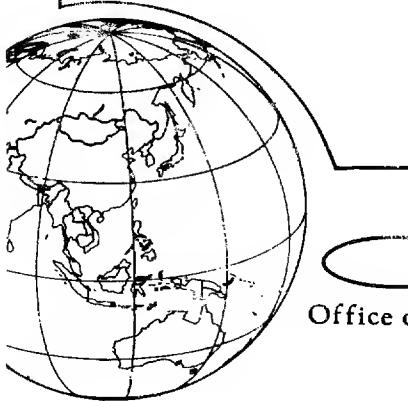
M. T. le

Many thanks for your memorandum of 29 June on the dying trees on the Headquarters Compound. I will pass the word to the Members of the Commission at our next meeting.

Enclosed is an unsolicited but obviously thoughtful hypothesis sent to me by one of the Environmental Committee representatives. Your experts may find it interesting.

[redacted] STATINTL

JOHN MERRY KING
Chairman
Fine Arts Commission



Director,

[redacted] O G C R
Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research

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DD/A Registry

File Bldg & Order

29 JUN 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Fine Arts Commission

FROM : Michael J. Malanick
Associate Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT : Dying Trees on the Headquarters Compound

REFERENCE : Memo to DDA fr C/FAC dated 3 June 1976 (DDA 76-2877);
Same Subject

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1. At the suggestion of the Fine Arts Commission (FAC), Mr. [REDACTED] former chairman of FAC, was consulted for the purpose of obtaining professional assistance in determining the cause of the six Eastern Red cedar and oak trees that died in the center and North Cafeteria courtyards. An Agency contract was awarded to Gustin Gardens, Incorporated, dated 18 March 1976, at the request of Mr. [REDACTED], for the services of a plant pathologist, Dr. Curtis May, to determine why the trees died. To date, we have not received an official report in writing, but Mr. [REDACTED] informally advised that the problem could be caused by the use of herbicides. It appears that this same problem is affecting the 15-year-old willow oak trees located along the perimeter road adjacent to the DCI Garage and the exit road leading to the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Fifteen of these trees have already died and have been removed. Other oak trees in both of these locations are showing signs of dying.

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2. In addition, the General Services Administration (GSA) McLean Field Office was asked by speed letter, dated 28 May, to determine the cause of the problem and to submit a written report to the Chief, Logistics Services Division, OL (C/LSD/OL). Mr. Larry Knee, GSA Horticulturist, was unable to determine the cause of the problem. He has consulted other sources to study the problem.

3. Due to the widespread problem on the Headquarters Compound, Mr. [REDACTED] C/LSD/OL, contacted the U.S. Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service) on 10 June and requested assistance. On 14 June representatives of the Forest Service (Messrs. Kenneth Knauer, Ph.D. and Harvey Toko) made a physical inspection of the affected areas. They tentatively diagnosed the problem on the use of herbicide along the perimeter fence and center courtyard which is used to kill weeds. According to the

STATINTL

SUBJECT: Dying Trees on the Headquarters Compound

Forest Service representatives, a strong herbicide would slowly kill shallow root oak trees if used frequently enough, especially during the hot, dry summer months.

4. LSD advised Mr. Knee of the Forest Service's tentative diagnosis and requested the name of the herbicide or weed killer used and the chemical contents for further evaluation by them. In the meantime, LSD asked GSA to stop using this herbicide until an analysis of the problem has been completed.

5. LSD is on top of the problem and will follow through until resolved.

/s/ Michael J. Malanick

Michael J. Malanick

cc: D/OS

Distribution:

Orig. & 1 - Adse
(2) - DDA ~~Chrono, Subject~~
1 - OL Official

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Originating Office:

James H. McDonald
Director of Logistics

6/23/76
Date

4. We have asked the Department of Agriculture to come out and assess the problem. There is also a problem with worms and fungus which must be dealt with (which Tom says is not the cause of the trees dying).

5. LSD appears to be on top of this.

R
B
C
STATINTL

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
	UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	Chief, LSD		
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN	
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE	
ATT: DDA 76-2877			

Remarks:

Attached is the note to Mr. Blake from John Kerry King re the trees in the courtyard. Per our conversation, please prepare a response.

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.		DATE	
	EO/DDA		15 June
	UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET

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(40)

STATINTL

DD/A 76-2877

8 June 1976

Memorandum for:Jack Blake
DDA 10 JUN 1976*JB.*

Members of the Fine Arts Commission
keep reminding me the trees in the courtyard
are dying. They are dying. We think
water would help.

Please help!

JKK
JOHN KERRY KING
Chairman
Fine Arts Commission

STATINTL

Please handle

Director,


Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
	UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	ADDA	11 JUN 1976	<i>WS</i>
2			
3	DDA	11 JUN 1976	<i>B</i>
4	<i>Make</i>		
5	<i>Get word on this land</i>		
6	<i>John King - in mailing</i>		
ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN	
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE	
ATT: DDA 76-2877			
Remarks: Jack: 1. FYI: John Kerry King will be out for the next month. 2. I talked to [REDACTED] about the trees. He commented that problems with the trees extend beyond those in the courtyard. 3. FAC had enlisted the aid of a consultant by the name of [REDACTED] who apparently did not come up with a solution for the problem.			
<u>(Over)</u>			
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
[REDACTED] EO/DDA			11 June
	UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET

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STATINTL

STATINTL

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	EDDAA	28 JUL 1976	✓
2	ADDAA	29 JUL 1976	ly
3	DDA	29 JUL 1976	3
4	Key		
5			
6			
ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN	
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE	

Remarks:

I think Peggy's
comments have gone to
log — but maybe not.

They have — ✓
unh 29 JUL 1976

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER		
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UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET

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